

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

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HINCHEY COMMENTS ON UNVEILING OF FDR STATUE

WASHINGTON – U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today applauded the unveiling of a new statue at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial depicting Roosevelt seated in a wheelchair. In 1997 Hinchey, who was member of the bipartisan Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Commission, introduced successful legislation in the House of Representatives that ordered the design of such a statue and its inclusion in the memorial.

Today, Hinchey offered the following comments:

"I am very pleased that this wonderful statue is now part of the FDR Memorial. Although the politics and sensibilities of his time caused FDR to hide his illness, the challenges it presented to him did not keep him from taking on our nation's most demanding job and excelling at it during the most difficult period of the 20th century. Indeed, the lessons he learned from his disability contributed greatly to the development of his extraordinary character and leadership skills.

"It is very appropriate that in this more enlightened age we depict President Roosevelt as he lived and celebrate his remarkable triumph over considerable obstacles. While there have been differences of opinion on whether to depict FDR in a wheelchair, I believe that we have reached a consensus in recent years that it is the right thing to do."

Hinchey was appointed to the FDR Memorial Commission by Speaker of the House Tom Foley in 1993. He was instrumental in raising funds for the construction of the memorial, which opened in 1997. Later that year, President Clinton signed into law a resolution, introduced by Hinchey in the House and Daniel Inouye in the Senate, that directed the U.S. Department of the Interior to design the new statue that has been added to the memorial.